

REMARKS

Claim 1 is pending in this application. By this Amendment, claim 1 is amended.

Reconsideration based on the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 CFR §1.116 since the amendments: (a) place the application in condition for allowance (for the reasons discussed herein); (b) do not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration (since the amendments amplify issues previously discussed throughout prosecution); (c) satisfy a requirement of form asserted in the previous Office Action; (d) do not present any additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims; and (e) place the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. The amendments are necessary and were not earlier presented because they are made in response to arguments raised in the final rejection. Entry of the amendments is thus respectfully requested.

I. Claim 1 Defines Allowable Subject Matter

The Office Action rejects claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as unpatentable over PCT Publication WO 99/36830 to Clabburn. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Clabburn does not disclose forming the lens composition into the lens members as boundary portions of the precursors of the lens members are formed over the light-absorption-material patterns, and as the light-absorption-material patterns are being formed, as recited in claim 1.

Instead, Clabburn discloses adhering microlenses 12 to a surface of the film 10, film 10 bearing on its opposite surface an opaque deposit 14 forming a pattern complementary with the pattern formed by the microlenses 12, and the opaque deposit 14 providing an opaque field in which is disposed an array of apertures or windows each corresponding with and registering with a respective one of the microlenses 12. See pg. 6, line 26 - pg. 7, line 11.

Further, Clabburn discloses that the opaque mask layer 14 may be applied to the sheet 10 by a conventional printing technique, electrographic technique or photographic technique. See pg. 12, lines 14-17.

Clabburn also discloses that the same techniques are equally applicable to the production of a screen comprising a lens lenticular array in the form of an array of cylindrical or quazi-cylindrical lens. See pg. 12, lines 27-29. Further, Clabburn discloses forming both a mask layer 14 and microlens 12 by an electrographic technique as illustrated in Fig. 5. See pg. 14, line 1 - pg. 15, line 19. Although Clabburn discloses various techniques for forming both the masking layer 14 and the microlens, Clabburn does not disclose the microlens as being formed at the same time as the light absorbing portions of mask 14 are formed.

Page 14, paragraph [0075] - [0076], of the specification of the present application discloses that the light-absorption-material film 402 is radiated with an electromagnetic wave 403 of light having a wave length that causes photosensitive reaction, and by each lens member 105, the electromagnetic wave 403 converges near the light-absorption-material film 402 in order to cause a photosensitization action to occur at selected locations of the light-absorption-material film 402. Portions 405 which have not been exposed exhibit light absorptivity to absorb outside light. See pg. 14, paragraph [0077]. In this step, each lens member 105 may be in the lens precursor state. The electromagnetic wave 403 causes a hardening reaction, light-transmittance increasing reaction, etc., causing the lens precursor/lens compositions to be formed into lens members. See pg. 14, paragraph [0076]. Thus, the precursor are formed into lens members 105 by a post-processing step, such as a hardening reaction. See pg. 12, paragraph [0062] and Fig. 4(c). See also pg. 18, paragraph [0049] and Fig. 5(c).

In other words, each lens member 105 may be in a lens precursor state when the light absorption portions 405 are being formed. This is achieved by the electromagnetic wave 403

of light traveling through the lens member to form the light absorption portion 404. Clabburn is completely devoid of these features.

On the contrary, Clabburn discloses a photopolymerisable or photo-sensitive material exposed to ultra-violet light coming through the mask 14. See pg. 10, line 22-29. Clabburn does not disclose that the light comes through lens 12 to form light-absorption portions of the mask 14.

Clabburn discloses a droplet of molten light-transmitting resin to solidify into a lenticular form. See pg. 4, lines 20-28. However, Clabburn does not disclose or suggest that the drops will solidify into lenses as the boundary of the droplets are formed over the light-absorption portions of the mask 14. Further, Clabburn does not disclose that those droplets form into lens at the same time that the light-absorption portions of the mask 14 are formed.

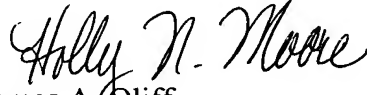
For at least these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is distinguishable over the applied art. Thus, withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) is respectfully requested.

II. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claim 1 is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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